

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): In a heat exchanger comprising at least one heat exchanger block, an insulating vessel which surrounds the heat exchanger block, and pipes connected to said heat exchanger block for transporting fluids to and from said heat exchanger block, ~~and securing means for securing the heat exchanger block hanging in the insulating vessel,~~ the improvement wherein said heat exchanger further comprises securing means for securing the heat exchanger block hanging in the insulating vessel, and wherein ~~the heat exchanger block (1) is arranged movably in the insulating vessel whereby~~ said means for securing said heat exchanger block permit thermally produced changes in the lengths of said pipes connected to said heat exchange block to be compensated for by movement of said heat exchanger block.

2. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to Claim 1, wherein said heat exchanger block has a lower end and wherein the lower end of the heat exchanger block (1) can move in at least two spatial directions.

3. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to Claim 1, wherein the heat exchanger block (1) is suspended in such a manner that it can move freely above its center of gravity.

4. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to Claim 1, wherein the heat exchanger comprises at least two heat exchanger blocks (1).

5. (Currently Amended): A heat exchanger according to Claim 4, wherein said pipes connected to said heat exchange block comprise ~~the heat exchanger blocks (1) have~~ feed and/or

discharge lines which lead into a common connection line.

6. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to Claim 1, wherein the securing means have joints (5, 7).

7. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to Claim 6, wherein the securing means have two axes of rotation (6, 9) which lie perpendicular to one another.

8. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to Claim 1, wherein the securing means have a first element (3), which is fixedly connected to the heat exchanger block (1), and a second element (4), which is articulately connected to the first element (3), the second element (4) being articulately secured in the insulating vessel.

9. (Currently Amended): In a low-temperature air fractionation plant comprising a principal heat exchanger and at least one fractionation column, the improvement wherein said principal heat exchanger comprises:

at least one heat exchanger block, an insulating vessel which surrounds the heat exchanger block, pipes connected to said heat exchanger block for transporting fluids to and from said heat exchanger block, and securing means for securing the heat exchanger block hanging in the insulating vessel, wherein ~~the heat exchanger block (1) is arranged movably in the insulating vessel whereby~~ said means for securing said heat exchanger block permit thermally produced changes in the lengths of said pipes connected to said heat exchange block to be compensated for by movement of said heat exchanger block.

10. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to Claim 2, wherein the heat exchanger block (1) is suspended in such a manner that it can move freely above its center of gravity.

11. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to Claim 4, comprising at

least three heat exchanger blocks.

12. (Currently Amended): In a heat exchanger comprising at least one heat exchanger block, an insulating vessel which surrounds the heat exchanger block ~~and securing means for securing the heat exchanger block hanging in the insulating vessel~~, the improvement wherein said heat exchanger further comprises securing means for securing the heat exchanger block hanging in the insulating vessel, and ~~the heat exchanger block (1) is arranged movably in the insulating vessel~~, the heat exchanger comprises at least two heat exchanger blocks (1), the heat exchanger blocks (1) have feed and/or discharge pipes ~~lines~~ which lead into a common connection line, and the heat exchanger blocks (1) are suspended so that they can move freely above their centers of gravity, and

~~whereby~~ said heat exchanger further comprises securing means for securing the heat exchanger blocks hanging in the insulating vessel, and said means for securing said heat exchanger blocks permit thermally produced changes in the lengths of said feed and/or discharge pipes connected to said heat exchange blocks ~~block~~ to be compensated for by movement of said heat exchanger blocks ~~block~~.

13. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to Claim 12, wherein each of said heat exchanger blocks have a lower end, and the lower end of each heat exchanger block (1) can move in at least two spatial directions.

14. (Currently Amended): In a heat exchanger comprising at least one heat exchanger block, an insulating vessel which surrounds the heat exchanger block ~~and securing means for securing the heat exchanger block hanging in the insulating vessel~~, the improvement wherein ~~the heat exchanger block (1) is arranged movably in the insulating vessel~~, the heat exchanger comprises at least two heat exchanger blocks (1), the heat exchanger blocks (1) have feed and/or discharge pipes ~~lines~~ which lead into a common connection line, the securing means have joints (5, 7), and the securing means have two axes of rotation (6, 9) which lie perpendicular to one another, and

whereby said heat exchanger further comprises securing means for securing the heat exchanger blocks hanging in the insulating vessel, and said means for securing said heat exchanger blocks permit thermally produced changes in the lengths of said feed and/or discharge pipes connected to said heat exchange blocks ~~block~~ to be compensated for by movement of said heat exchanger blocks ~~block~~.

15. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to claim 1, wherein said heat exchanger comprises ten heat exchanger blocks arranged in two rows of five blocks each.

16. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to claim 1, wherein said heat exchanger comprises eight heat exchanger blocks arranged in two rows of four blocks each.

17. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to claim 8, wherein said first element comprises two plates secured to two opposites side of said heat exchanger block and said second element is a triangular plate.

18. (Currently Amended): In a heat exchanger comprising at least one heat exchanger block having an upper end and a lower end, an insulating vessel which surrounds the heat exchanger block, and pipes connected to said heat exchanger block for transporting fluids to and from said heat exchanger block, and means for securing connected to the upper end of said heat exchanger block whereby said heat exchanger block hangs in said insulating vessel, the improvement wherein said heat exchanger further comprises means for securing connected to the upper end of said heat exchanger block whereby said heat exchanger block hangs in said insulating vessel, and ~~the heat exchanger block (1) is arranged movably in the insulating vessel~~ whereby said means for securing means permits the lower end of said heat exchange block to move in at least two spatial directions and said heat exchange block can move freely above its center of gravity.

19. (Currently Amended): A heat exchanger comprising at least one heat exchanger

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block having an upper end and a lower end, an insulating vessel which surrounds said at least one heat exchanger block, pipes connected to the upper end and pipes connect to the lower end of said heat exchanger block for transporting fluids to and from said heat exchanger block, a first support plate attached to said heat exchange block at a first side of said upper end of said heat exchange block, a second support plate attached to said heat exchange block at a side opposite said first said of said upper end of said heat exchange block, and a third support plate attached to a support within said insulating box,

wherein said first and second support plates are pivotally attached to said third support plate whereby said lower end of said heat exchange block is free to pivot about an axis passing through the plane of said third support plate, and said third support plate is attached to said support by a joint which permits said third support plate and said heat exchange block to pivot about an axis perpendicular to the plane of said third support plate.

20. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to claim 19, wherein said third support plate is a triangular plate.

21. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to Claim 19, wherein said heat exchanger comprises at least two, heat exchanger blocks.

22. (Previously Presented): A heat exchanger according to Claim 21, comprising at least four heat exchanger blocks.

23. (Currently Amended): In a low-temperature air fractionation plant comprising a principal heat exchanger and at least one fractionation column, the improvement wherein said principal heat exchanger comprises ~~comprises~~:

at least one heat exchanger block having an upper end and a lower end, an insulating vessel which surrounds said at least one heat exchanger block, pipes connected to the upper end and pipes connect to the lower end of said heat exchanger block for transporting fluids to and from said heat exchanger block, a first support plate attached to said heat exchange block at a

first side of said upper end of said heat exchange block, a second support plate attached to said heat exchange block at a side opposite said first said of said upper end of said heat exchange block, and a third support plate attached to a support within said insulating box,

wherein said first and second support plates are pivotally attached to said third support plate whereby said lower end of said heat exchange block is free to pivot about an axis passing through the plane of said third support plate, and said third support plate is attached to said support by a joint which permits said third support plate and said heat exchange block to pivot about an axis perpendicular to the plane of said third support plate.

24. (Cancelled):